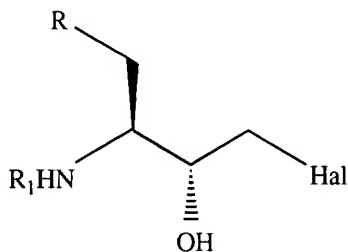
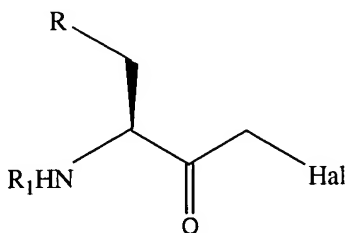


**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A stereoselective process for the preparation of (1S,2R) [1S,2S]-1-halo-2-hydroxy-3-(protected)amino-4-substituted butanes represented by the formula I



wherein Hal is halogen, R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl and substituted aryl and R<sub>1</sub> is a protecting group for the amino function comprising contacting a (1S)-1-halo-2-oxo-3-(protected)amino-4-substituted butane represented by formula II



wherein Halo, R and R<sub>1</sub> are as defined above with a microorganism capable of catalyzing the stereoselective reduction of the compound represented by formula II wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Rhodococcus erythropolis* ATCC 4277, *Rhodococcus erythropolis* DSM 6971, [and] *Rhodococcus* sp. ATCC 21227, *Rhodococcus erythropolis* ATCC 27854 and *Brevibacterium* sp. ATCC19653 under

conditions such that said reduction is effected, and recovering said compound represented by formula I.

2. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein Hal is chloro, R is phenyl and R<sub>1</sub> is t-butoxycarbonyl.

3. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus erythropolis* ATCC 4277.

4. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus erythropolis* DSM 6971.

5. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus species* ATCC 21227.

6. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Rhodococcus species* ATCC 27854.

7. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said microorganism is *Brevibacterium sp.* ATCC19653.

8. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1 carried out as a one-stage fermentation.

9. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1 carried out as a two-stage fermentation.

10. (Currently Amended) A process in accordance with Claim 1 carried out in the presence of an inducer effective to initiate or enhance the reduction.

11. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the inducer is a compound represented by formula I that is added during the growth of said microorganism.

12. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 1, wherein compound represented by formula I is obtained in at least 70 % yield and at least 93% diastereomeric purity.

13. (Original) A process in accordance with Claim 10, wherein compound represented by formula I is obtained in at least 95 % yield and at least 99% diastereomeric purity.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) A process in accordance with claim 10, wherein the inducer is a 1-halo-2-oxo-3-(protected) amino-4-substituted butone represented by formula II.